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**RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INITIATIVE
FOR
EARTHCRAFT HOMES
REBATE CRITERIA**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The South Carolina Energy Office announces the Residential Solar Initiative (RSI) for EarthCraft Homes to document and demonstrate the technical, and economic, and practical advantages of residential solar water heating systems in South Carolina.

The purposes of the RSI for EarthCraft Homes are to:

1. Promote the installation of solar domestic hot water systems in EarthCraft designed homes, through a \$1,000 cash award rebate to the builder for each home;
2. Establish 20 solar water heating systems installed in EarthCraft homes in the Greenville and Charleston areas, (10 in each area, if possible);
3. Promote residential solar technology, economics, energy efficiencies, and other advantages to South Carolina homeowners.
4. Document and promote South Carolina builders and contractors who have demonstrated success and technical expertise for installation, operation, and maintenance of solar water heating systems in South Carolina;
5. Promote the construction of EarthCraft Homes as a model for the residential solar initiative;
6. Identify and document key obstacles and solutions inherent in residential installation, and;
7. Determine the extent to which the South Carolina Energy Office should invest future personnel and financial resources in the promotion of solar water heating.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING

Homebuilders are eligible if they build an approved designed EarthCraft Home with a solar water heating system certified by the Solar Rating Certification Council or the Florida Solar Energy Center. Eligibility is confirmed with an approved Rebate Application from the South Carolina Energy Office.

A maximum of \$20,000 in total rebates has been allocated for this initiative. Twenty rebates of \$1,000 each will be awarded to builders for approved installations.

Only new installations (completed after application approval) qualify.

REBATE APPLICATION

Rebate Applications will be accepted by the South Carolina Energy Office beginning January 19, 2005.

Rebate Applications will be considered for funding on the basis of:

1. Quality of the documentation supporting the application;
2. Timeliness of projected project completion;
3. Technical merit;
4. Geographic diversity;

Applications approved by the South Carolina Energy Office, will be signed and returned to the applicant as confirmation of eligibility.

HOMEBUILDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Each solar installation should be completed within 180 days of application approval.

Homebuilders must:

1. Provide and install the solar water system
2. Show projected annual energy savings;
3. Provide access for on-site viewing for the SCEO representative;
4. Provide access for final inspection by SCEO following commissioning of system;
5. Allow the installation address to be listed on the SCEO website (www.energy.sc.gov);
6. Provide evidence of a 5-year service agreement.

The Rebate will be issued to the approved applicant within 30 days of installation verification by SCEO.

Note: Applications, questions, and other communications relative to this program should be directed to the RSI Program Manager, Richard Horton, 803-737-8034, rhorton@gs.sc.gov. Fax applications to 803-737-9846, or mail to Mr. Horton, SC Energy Office, 1201 Main Street, Suite 430, Columbia, SC 29201.